

Figure 1. *Oecobius navus* squashed inside a dictionary. © H. K. El-Hennawy.

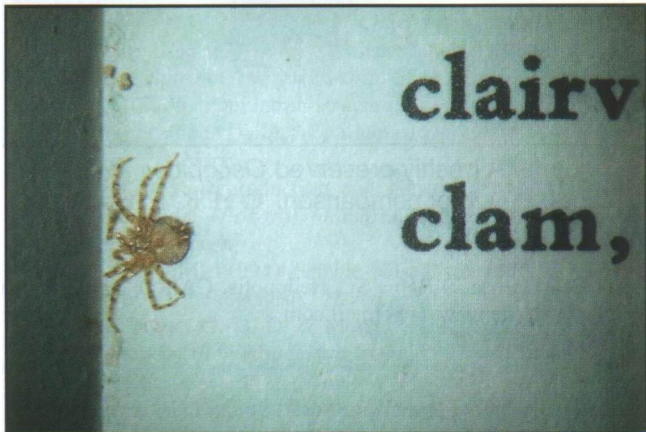


Figure 2. *Oecobius navus* squashed inside a dictionary. © H. K. El-Hennawy.

***Oecobius navus* Found Squashed Inside a Dictionary!**

by Hisham K. El-Hennawy

Two years ago, when I opened my English-Arabic dictionary, looking for the meaning of a word, I found a squashed spider against the word “clam”. It was an adult female *Oecobius* spider. I photographed it and identified it as *Oecobius navus* Blackwall, 1859.

Oecobius navus is a cosmopolitan species. It was recorded from Egypt for the first time by Hassan (1953) as *Oecobius annulipes*. Its published distribution in Egypt is: Alexandria, Ismailia and Upper Egypt (El-Hennawy, 2006). I also have a specimen from Tanta in almost the centre of the Nile delta.

Quite when this female spider came to be pressed within the dictionary I do not know. It was possibly looking for a special word, e.g. “clam”! Anyhow, it was trapped to tell us that the species is found in Cairo inside the home of an arachnologist, with the scarcely abundant *Oecobius templi* O. P. -Cambridge, 1876 and the less abundant *Oecobius putus* O. P. -Cambridge, 1876.



Figure 3. The squashed *Oecobius navus* from Cairo. © H. K. El-Hennawy.

References

El-Hennawy, H. K. (2006) A list of Egyptian spiders (revised in 2006). *Serket*, **10** (2): 65–76.
Hassan, A. I. (1953) The Oecobiidae of Egypt. *Bull. zool. Soc. Egypt*, **11**: 14–28.



Figure 4. A freshly preserved *Oecobius navus* from Tanta, Egypt for comparison. © H. K. El-Hennawy.

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